When you release natural enemies as a precautionary measure, plants will stay healthy as well. If you release natural enemies when the plant is already attacked by pests or diseases, parts of the crops will be lost. Without biological control products, huge parts of the harvest will be lost.

In nature, pests and diseases are attacked by their natural enemies. When you release natural enemies as a precautionary measure, plants will stay healthy as well. In a cropping system, this balance is disturbed; there are insufficient natural enemies to control pests and diseases. Crops get damaged.

Companies select and multiply natural enemies from nature, resulting in biological control products. Farmers and foresters buy these natural products to control pests and diseases. The market for biological crop protection products grows by 15% per year.

Integrated Pest Management

Farmers and foresters use a set of tactics to control pests and diseases: Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM combines monitoring of pests and diseases and the use of biological control products and chemicals.

The range of biological products for pest and disease control is still limited; a total share of 3.5% of the global crop protection market.

More information about biological control see www.biocomes.eu.